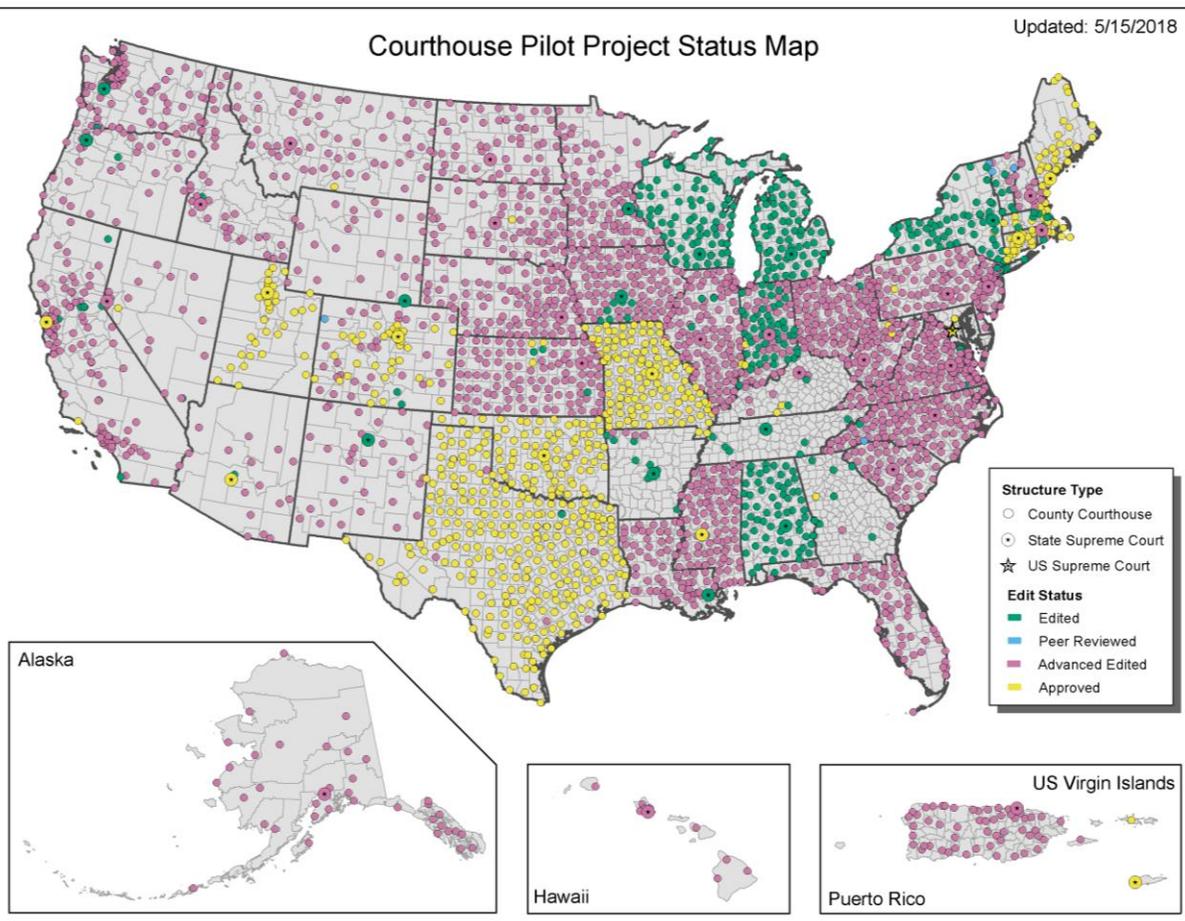


Courthouse Pilot Project Update: Yellow Courthouses?

Why Courthouses are Changing Color

As you may have noticed, courthouses in the TNMCorps editor are starting to change color, state by state. Utah, Missouri, and some New England states have recently turned yellow:

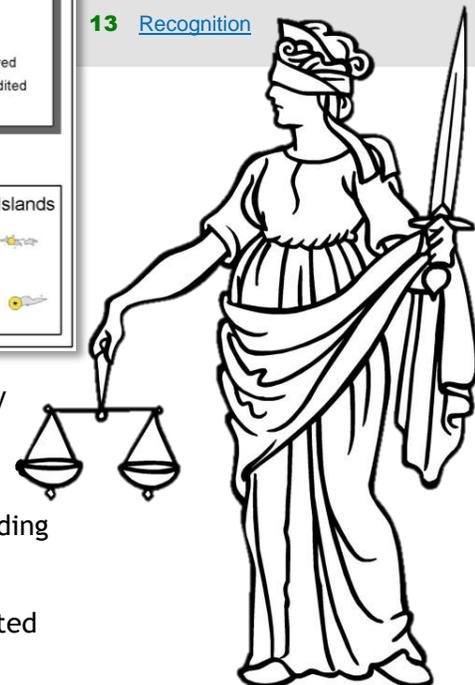


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This is because we have started to review courthouses and evaluate them from a quality perspective. We change the point to yellow when we finalize the review. Each point collected is being evaluated for three quality measures:

- **Positional Accuracy** measures whether the point was placed on the correct building
- **Naming Accuracy** measures whether the name given to the point follows our [Courthouse Naming](#) guidelines
- **Attribute Accuracy** measures whether the point's additional fields were populated accurately and in accordance with our [Name and Address Formatting](#) guidelines



Courthouse Pilot Project Update (Continued)

To perform these reviews, we are going through each state county-by-county to identify the types of courts that should and should not be collected. Reviewing points county-by-county also allows us to evaluate whether there are errors of omission or errors of commission. An **Error of Omission** exists when a point was not collected for a courthouse when it should have been. An **Error of Commission** exists when a point was collected for a structure when it should not have been. Once all of the states have been reviewed, the results will be published in a technical article that focuses on volunteers' ability to collect a complete dataset from scratch.

Can volunteers edit yellow points?

Technically, yes, but because the goal of the pilot project is to collect a complete dataset from scratch, we prefer that you focus on adding the missing points for the remaining states. Or, if you are a Peer Reviewer or Advanced Editor, you can edit the green points added by other volunteers (but don't forget: you should never peer review your own edited points!). As always, if you find an error or know of a required change in a yellow point, feel free to update it.

What next?

In the meantime, there are still some states that need some tender love and care regarding courthouses, including Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and Maryland. We'd really love your help closing the case on these last few states! For updates on courthouses, check out our [Mapping Challenges page](#).

Taking a Bite out of History: Hinsdale County Courthouse

Tucked away in the only incorporated town in the [most remote county](#) in the contiguous U.S., is a humble courthouse of notorious repute. Built in 1877, the [Hinsdale County Courthouse](#) located in [Lake City](#) is the [oldest continuously operating courthouse](#) in the state of Colorado. It was erected on the cusp of the [Colorado silver boom](#), and much like the [Ouray County Courthouse](#), its presence in the community foreshadowed the permanence of a once volatile [mining town](#). It would also come to serve as an understated backdrop for some pretty significant moments in Colorado's history.

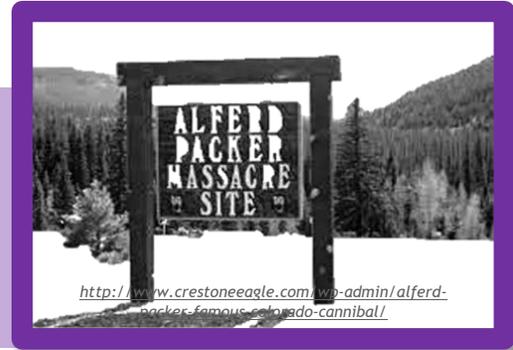


The same year the courthouse was built, [Susan B. Anthony](#) paid a visit to Lake City to garner support for the 1877 women's suffrage referendum. Around this time, Colorado was making promising strides towards [women's voting rights](#) and the suffragettes wanted to seize the opportunity to advocate for their cause. While speaking at the Hinsdale County Courthouse, Anthony attracted a crowd so large she had to [address the audience from the street](#) instead of from the 2nd floor courtroom. Unfortunately, broad interest in her visit was not enough to get the referendum passed. It would be [another 16 years](#) before women were granted the right to vote in Colorado, the [second state in the nation](#) do so.

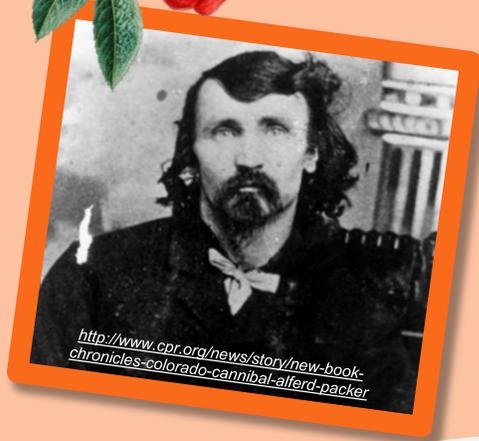


Taking a Bite out of History (Continued)

Several years after Susan B. Anthony made her historic visit to the Hinsdale County Courthouse, a [much less savory character](#) would make his mark on Lake City. In April of 1883, Alferd (or Alfred, as [some records](#) indicate) G. Packer, aka "The Colorado Cannibal", was tried at the Hinsdale County Courthouse and found guilty of murder.



Nearly a decade before Packer's Lake City trial, a [group of 21 men](#) set out on a journey from Utah to Colorado hoping to strike gold in the [San Juan Mountains](#). Six of those men insisted on continuing their journey through the harsh winter, a decision that would result in the demise of all but one of the party members: Alferd Packer. When pressed for details about what had happened to his travel companions, Packer recounted [several conflicting versions of the story](#), stoking suspicion that he had intentionally murdered, robbed, and then eaten the other men to survive. Packer eventually confessed to shooting one of the men, Wilson Bell, in self-defense, claiming it was Bell who had murdered and eaten the others. After escaping from the Saguache jail the same day the bodies of his missing companions were found, Packer fled the state and managed to [evade detection for 9 years](#), living under the alias John Schwartze. He was eventually caught in Wyoming and transported back to Lake City for his first trial. Initially, Packer was sentenced to death by hanging until he was "[dead, dead, dead](#)", but the Colorado Supreme Court reversed that sentence a year later, instead giving him 40 years for manslaughter. He was paroled in 1901 after serving only 17 years of his sentence.



Though no one knows [exactly what happened](#) in the winter of 1874, "The Colorado Cannibal" has become a fixture in popular culture, fueling the fire of macabre humor that inspired "[Cannibal! The Musical](#)", "[Alferd Packer's Wilderness Cookbook](#)," and even the "[Alferd Packer Restaurant and Grill](#)" at the University of Colorado in Boulder, where diners are encouraged to "Have a friend for lunch"!



Sources: <http://arthousedenver.com/portfolio/alferd-packer-restaurant-grill/>, <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/news/woman-suffrage/>, <http://womhist.alexanderstreet.com/colosuff/intro.htm>, <https://edits.nationalmap.gov/tnmcorps/?loc=38.0291,-107.3147,19>, https://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/County/Index.cfm?County_ID=17, <http://7thjudicialdistrictco.org/trial-courts/hinsdale/>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alferd_Packer, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannibal!_The_Musical, <http://www.coloradolifemagazine.com/The-Mystery-of-Alferd-Packer/index.php?cparticle=3&siarticle=2>, <https://www.colorado.gov/hinsdalecounty>, <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hinsdalecounty/hinsdale-county-court-judge>, <https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/lake-city-0>, <http://www.lakecity.com/>, <https://www.uncovercolorado.com/counties/hinsdale/>, <http://www.museumtrail.org/alferd-packer.html>, <http://www.westword.com/news/the-craziest-vintage-photos-from-the-denver-eye-7252622>, <http://www.sangres.com/history/alferdpacker.htm#.WFRQlPwZpQ>, <https://truewestmagazine.com/a-feast-along-the-alferd-packer-trail/>, <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hinsdalecounty/hinsdale-county-courthouse>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Juan_Mountains, <http://www.crestoneagle.com/wp-admin/alferd-packer-famous-colorado-cannibal/>, <http://www.coloradolifemagazine.com/The-Mystery-of-Alferd-Packer/index.php?cparticle=4&siarticle=3>

CartoPlaytime: Making Maps with our Data

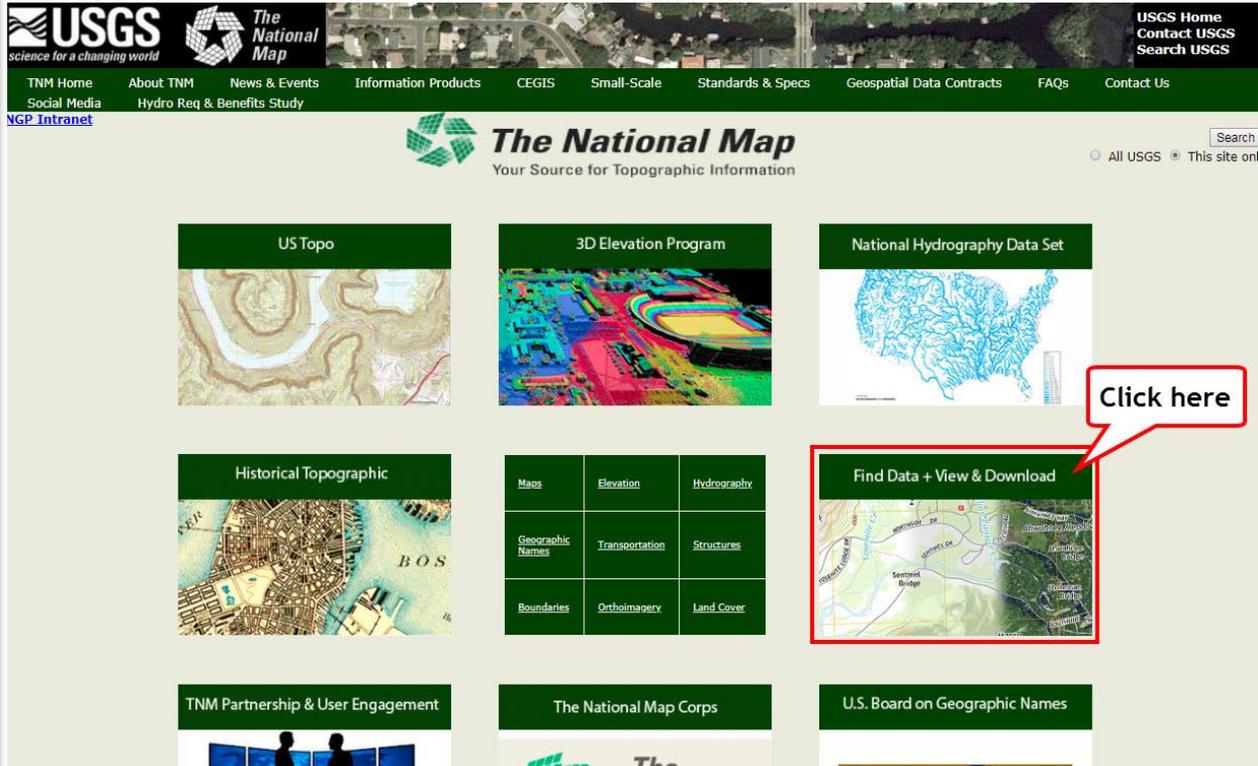
As volunteers, you help create, edit and verify the structures data that goes onto our [US Topo Maps](#) and [The National Map](#).

But did you know that our data is in the public domain?

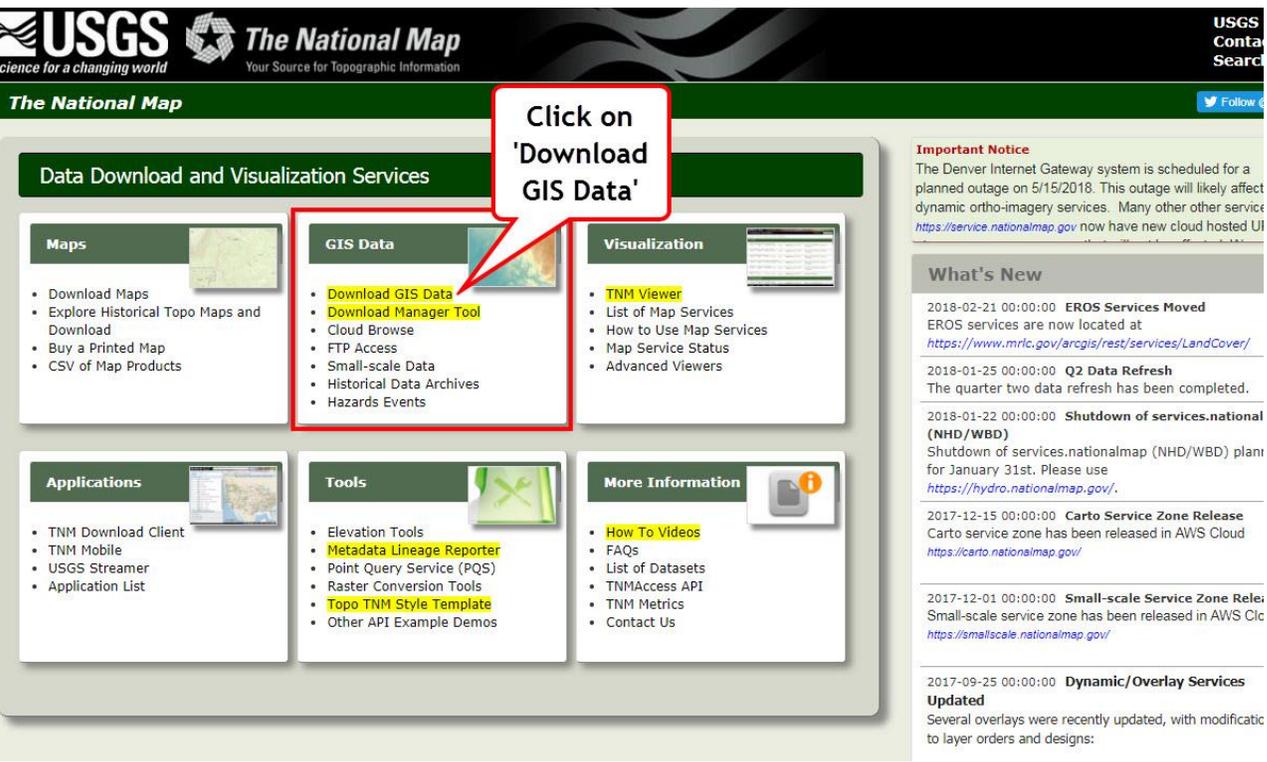
If you are a GIS Professional or a map-making hobbyist, you can make maps using data from The National Map.

Not sure how to go about using our data, or what software to use to make a map? Start by going to [The National Map website](#).

Click on the 'Find Data + View & Download' box. This is where all of our data is located:



In the 'GIS Data' box, click on 'Download GIS Data'. This will bring you to The National Map download tool where you can select the geographical extent from which you would like to obtain data:



CartoPlaytime: Making Maps with our Data (Continued)

Select preferred data from this list

Select preferred file format

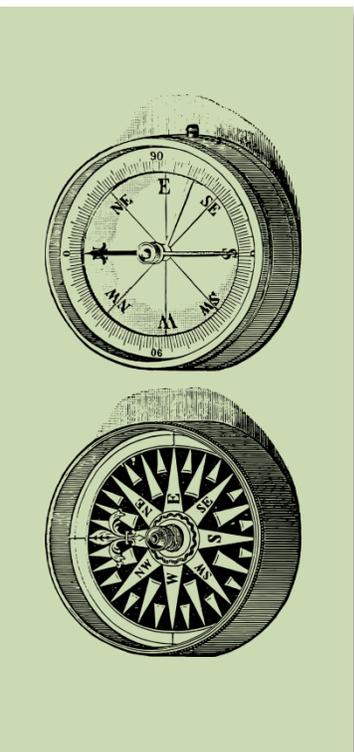
Use these options to select your area of interest

The data our volunteers work on becomes part of the National Structures Dataset

After selecting your area of interest, select the data you would like to download.

This will open up a menu where you can set the data extent to either 'State' or 'National'. You also have the option to select other areas using the menu at the top of the map viewer.

You can also set your preferred file format to either shapefile or file geodatabase.



Click here to add data from additional areas

Click 'Download' when you're satisfied with your data selection

Preview	Product	Actions	Cart
Actions for all displayed products: Show Footprints / Show Thumbnails			
	USGS National Structures Dataset (NSD) for Colorado 20180426 State or Territory FileGDB 10.1 Published Date: 2018-04-26 Metadata Updated: 2018-04-27 Format: FileGDB 10.1 (901.35 KB), Extent: State	Footprint Thumbnail Zoom To Info/Metadata Download	
	USGS National Structures Dataset (NSD) for New Mexico 20180426 State or Territory FileGDB 10.1 Published Date: 2018-04-26 Metadata Updated: 2018-04-27 Format: FileGDB 10.1 (436.87 KB), Extent: State	Footprint Thumbnail Zoom To Info/Metadata Download	
	USGS National Structures Dataset (NSD) for Utah 20180426 State or Territory FileGDB 10.1 Published Date: 2018-04-26 Metadata Updated: 2018-04-27 Format: FileGDB 10.1 (415.22 KB), Extent: State	Footprint Thumbnail Zoom To Info/Metadata Download	
	USGS National Structures Dataset (NSD) for Wyoming 20180426 State or Territory FileGDB 10.1 Published Date: 2018-04-26 Metadata Updated: 2018-04-27	Footprint Thumbnail Zoom To Info/Metadata	

If you are interested in creating a map with The National Map data, there are several online resources available, such as [GIS Lounge](#). "GIS Lounge" is a great place to start to find useful tools and map making software.

And if you decide to create a map using The National Map data, let us know! Email us at nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov. We'd love to see your creation.

Volunteer Spotlight: Cgibson

Since we have so many awesome volunteers with unique backgrounds and diverse reasons for helping out [The National Map Corps](#), we'd love to get to know you and share your stories with other volunteers!

We've done volunteer spotlights in the past, but we'd like to start regularly featuring volunteers, so send us your stories! We can't feature everybody, but we know you're all out there doing great work, so if you'd like to submit an article and/or a photo for an upcoming newsletter, please reach out to us at nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov. We'd really love to hear from you!

This month we're featuring our new volunteer Cgibson, whose interest in maps, history, and land use change has found expression through her participation in The National Map Corps.

Friend: "So, are you doing anything fun this weekend?"

Me: "Yes! I'm going to check out a few cemeteries!"

Friend: "Um....right. Are you ok? Because, you know, I'm always here for you...."

For some people, cemeteries are sad records of death. For me, they tell fascinating stories about our ancestors. I've always enjoyed wandering through these peaceful places, reading the inscriptions on the stones and wondering about the lives of the people who rest there. No spooks or ghouls to be seen, just a feeling that I can reach out and touch the past. My favorite headstone commemorates an 18th-century Massachusetts lady who seemed to like variety in her life. She was married eight (yes, eight!) times, and each husband is listed on her stone. The inscription implies that, at the time of her death at age 94, she was looking around for husband #9....

I am a geologist and GIS specialist, and joined The National Map Corps because I love maps and wanted an opportunity to practice using some of the online mapping tools available for mobile devices. I wasn't really thinking about focusing on historic cemeteries when I joined the TNMCorps, but there are several within walking distance of my house. As a beginning editor, I figured I'd get started by checking those out.

In the 1600s - 1800s here in New England, people weren't always buried in formal cemeteries. Many European settlers were laid to rest on their family farms, in small plots with only a few headstones. Over the years, these properties were sold to different families and farmland changed to woodlands. Roads were abandoned or rerouted, stranding many small cemeteries in areas without easy access today and making them difficult or impossible to locate using aerial imagery. My check of the cemeteries in my neighborhood showed that some of their information and geographic positions needed to be updated on the TNMCorps editor, which made me think that other cemeteries might need field verification as well.



Photo courtesy of Cgibson

Volunteer Spotlight (Continued)

Editing small historical cemeteries often requires a boots-on-the-ground approach. I use an iPad equipped with cellular service (you could also use a smartphone) and the [ArcGIS Explorer app](#) for mobile devices, which you can download for free. ArcGIS Explorer allows you to view several basemap layers, including the USGS National Map and aerial imagery, as well as perform simple tasks like measuring distances, and adding points. It looks very similar to the TNMCorps editor, except that it can access your device's locational services (with your permission). This means that your location in the field shows up as a blinking dot on your ArcGIS Explorer basemap. Mobile devices use both GPS and triangulation from cellular towers for positional information, so their accuracy is often very good. When I'm checking a cemetery, I start out using my iPad to navigate to the cemetery's position on the ArcGIS Explorer map. Once I locate the cemetery, I stand in the center of the plot, and mark my position on the map.

Then, I compare that position to what's displayed on the TNMCorps editor and update it if necessary. I use The National Map as my basemap in ArcGIS Explorer and in the TNMCorps editor, so I can edit the cemetery position as accurately as possible. I also check for authoritative sources to verify the cemetery's information. Town websites and historical societies often have helpful information about local cemeteries.

Browsing through an historical cemetery will tell you stories about changes in social attitudes, religious and cultural traditions, health, land use, and local community characters. So check out who's resting in the cemeteries near you, and get them on The National Map before they start to haunt us!



**This article was submitted by volunteer Cgibson and has been published with their permission and with minimal modification.*

Aerial Photo Interpretation Part 5: Hospitals

This article is the fifth in a series of newsletter articles highlighting aerial photo interpretation for different structure types. This month we will focus on Hospitals.

Check out our past [newsletters](#) for the other articles in this series:

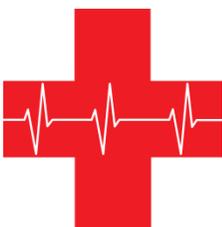
[September 2017](#) - Part 1: Cemeteries

[November 2017](#) - Part 2: Post Offices

[January 2018](#) - Part 3: Fire Stations and EMS

[March 2018](#) - Part 4: Prisons / Correctional Facilities

You may not realize it, but every time you participate in TNMCorps you are conducting aerial photo interpretation. This part of the process of editing structures can be quite fun and interesting. In order to identify the correct building associated with a structure point, you must do a little bit of detective work by searching for clues in the imagery. You may be an expert at this, or you may be new to it. Either way, here are some helpful tips and tricks for interpreting the aerial photography background layers and identifying building types.



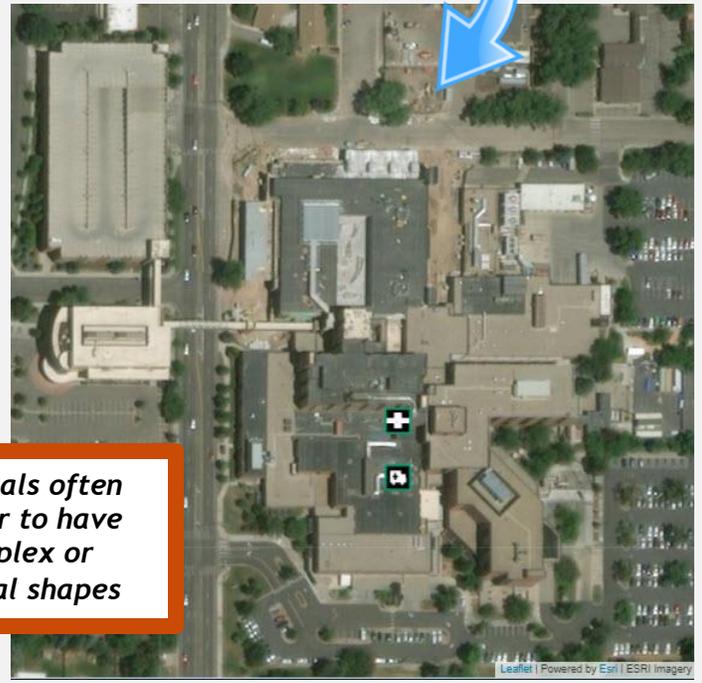
Hospitals

Much like [prisons and correctional facilities](#), hospitals are often quite easy to identify using aerial imagery. Hospital structures are usually quite large and have unusual, or complex shapes. The following tips may help you identify the correct hospital building, but keep in mind that they are not hard and fast rules. As always, before editing this structure type, make sure you've reviewed the [structures definition table](#) to find out what we do and don't collect as hospital features.

Aerial Photo Interpretation Part 5 (Continued)

Building Size/Shape

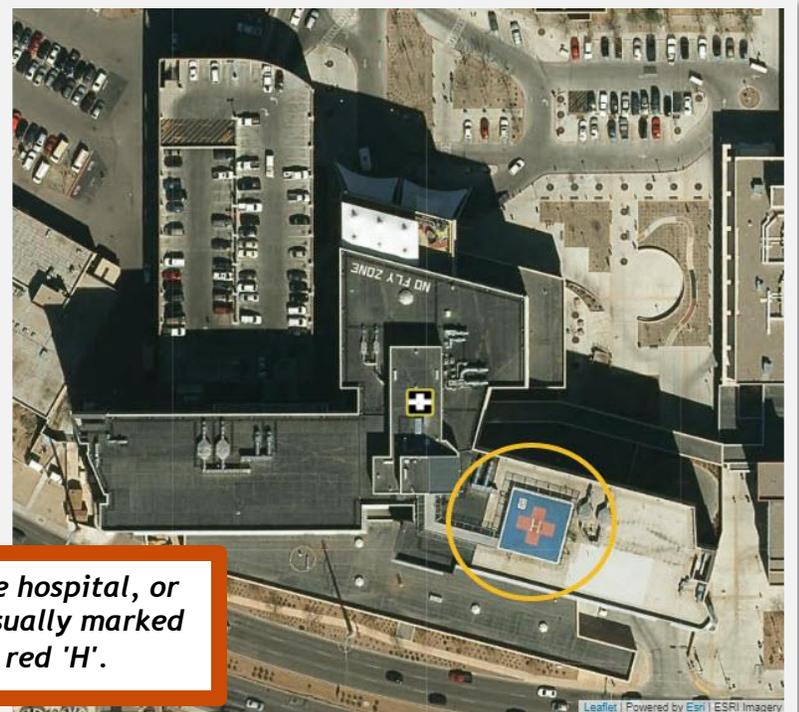
Hospitals are usually large structures with individual or connected wings or buildings.



Hospitals often appear to have complex or unusual shapes



Helipads
Most (but not all) major hospitals also have helipads, which make hospital identification in aerial imagery quite easy.



Helipads may be located on the roof of the hospital, or on a large cement pad nearby. They are usually marked with a red or white cross and a large red 'H'.

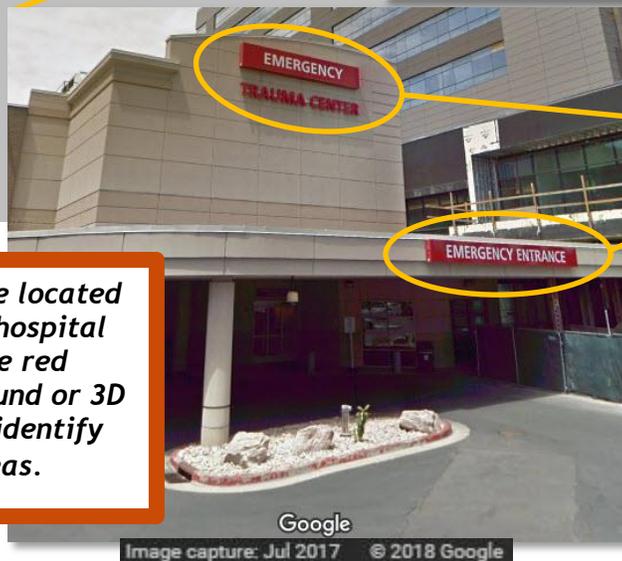
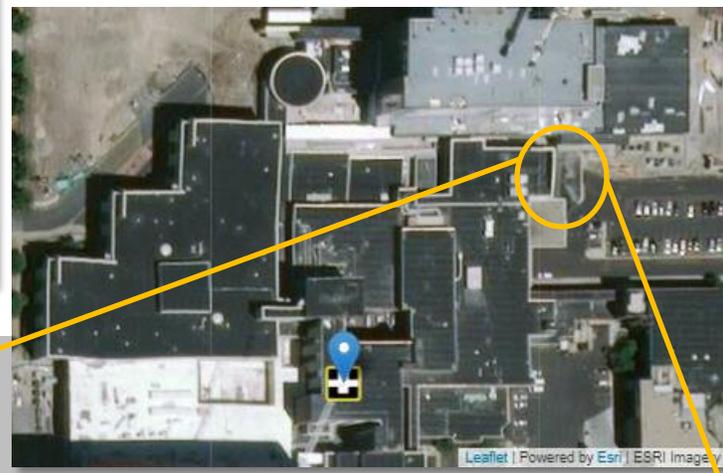
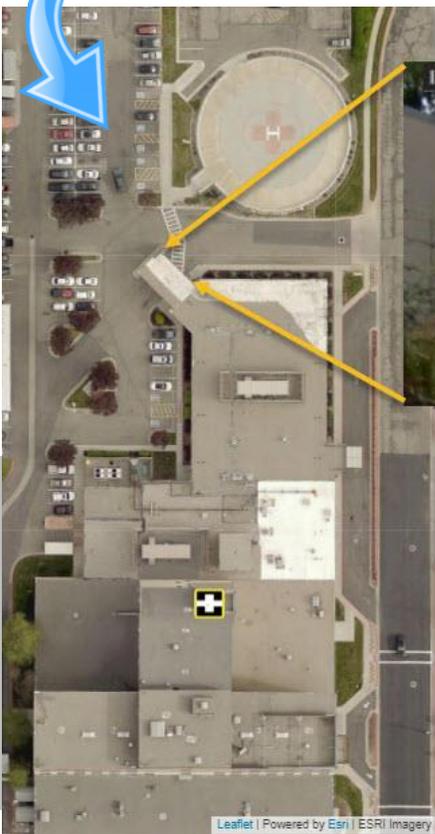
Aerial Photo Interpretation Part 5 (Continued)

Surrounded by large parking lots and/or garages



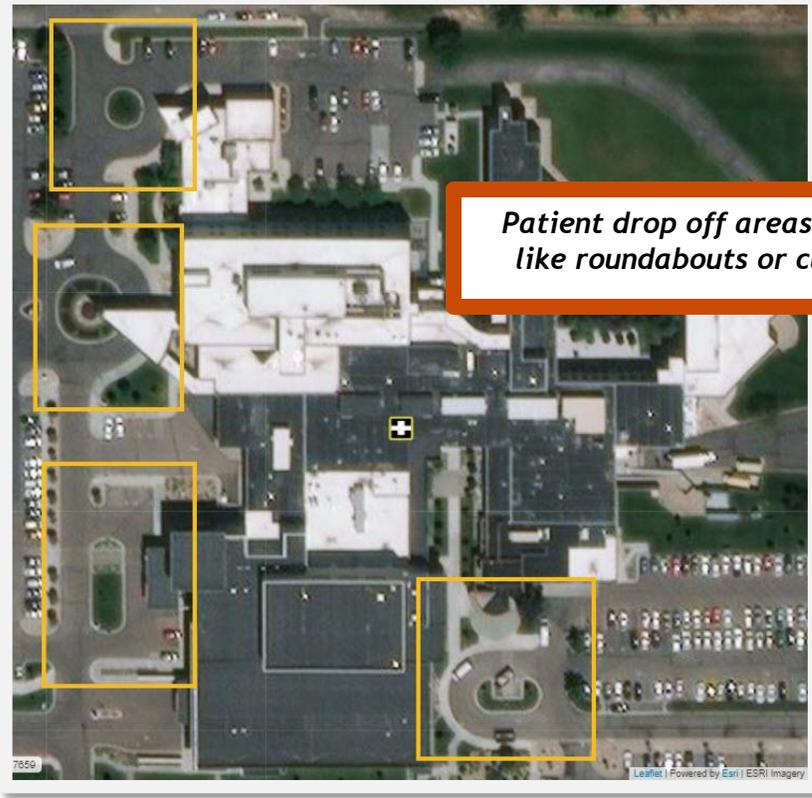
Ambulance drop off areas

Ambulance entrances can be rather difficult to identify in imagery, but if you can spot them, they can be great hospital identification features.

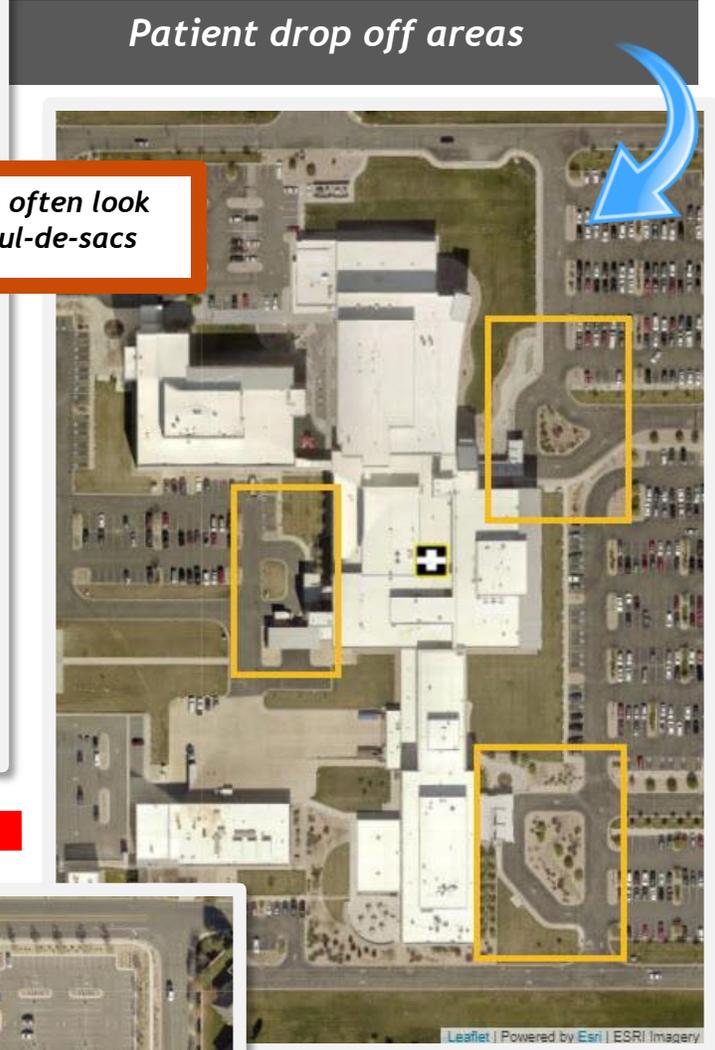


Ambulance drop off areas are located in the emergency area of a hospital often marked with a large red 'Emergency' sign. On-the-ground or 3D (oblique) imagery can help identify ambulance drop off areas.

Aerial Photo Interpretation Part 5 (Continued)



Patient drop off areas often look like roundabouts or cul-de-sacs



Patient drop off areas



This one has it all: large, unusually shaped building, helipad, large parking lot, ambulance drop off area, and a patient drop off area.



Newest Top Recognition Member: geo163

Congratulations to our longtime volunteer, **geo163**, on becoming the most recent member of our top recognition category, the [Squadron of Biplane Spectators](#)!

To celebrate this accomplishment, we asked geo163 to share a bit about his background and why he volunteers with The National Map Corps:



Being a National Map Corps volunteer is a good fit with my educational background, professional experiences, and genuine interests. My educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Geography with a minor equivalent in Landscape Architecture from Utah State University; and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado at Denver.

While I was in graduate school I had a great volunteer experience with the Colorado State Parks helping research and create the first color editions of the Urban Trails in Colorado map series. I received a State Parks annual award for my efforts. As a planner I have been responsible for designing maps for community plans in Jefferson County, Colorado, and Vanderburgh County, Indiana.

My GIS experiences range from an undergraduate class using punch cards to create the Harvard Design School grid overstrike maps, to creating GIS polygons for a community, to the above mentioned community plans. Another major professional experience related to the National Map icon attribute detail has been the lead in my community's participation in the U.S. Census Bureau's LUCA (Local Update of Census Addresses) program in preparation for the decennial census three times now.

I have had great satisfaction as a National Map Corps volunteer both from a participation and personal achievement perspective. This includes achieving the [Squadron of Biplane Spectators](#) (6,000 + edits), the [2016 International Map Patch challenge](#), numerous state map challenges, and becoming an Advanced Editor. Also I know from my professional experience and training the value of accurately mapping critical infrastructure, which the National Map helps provide.

**This article was submitted by volunteer geo163 and has been published with their permission and with no modification.*

TNMCORPS Puzzle

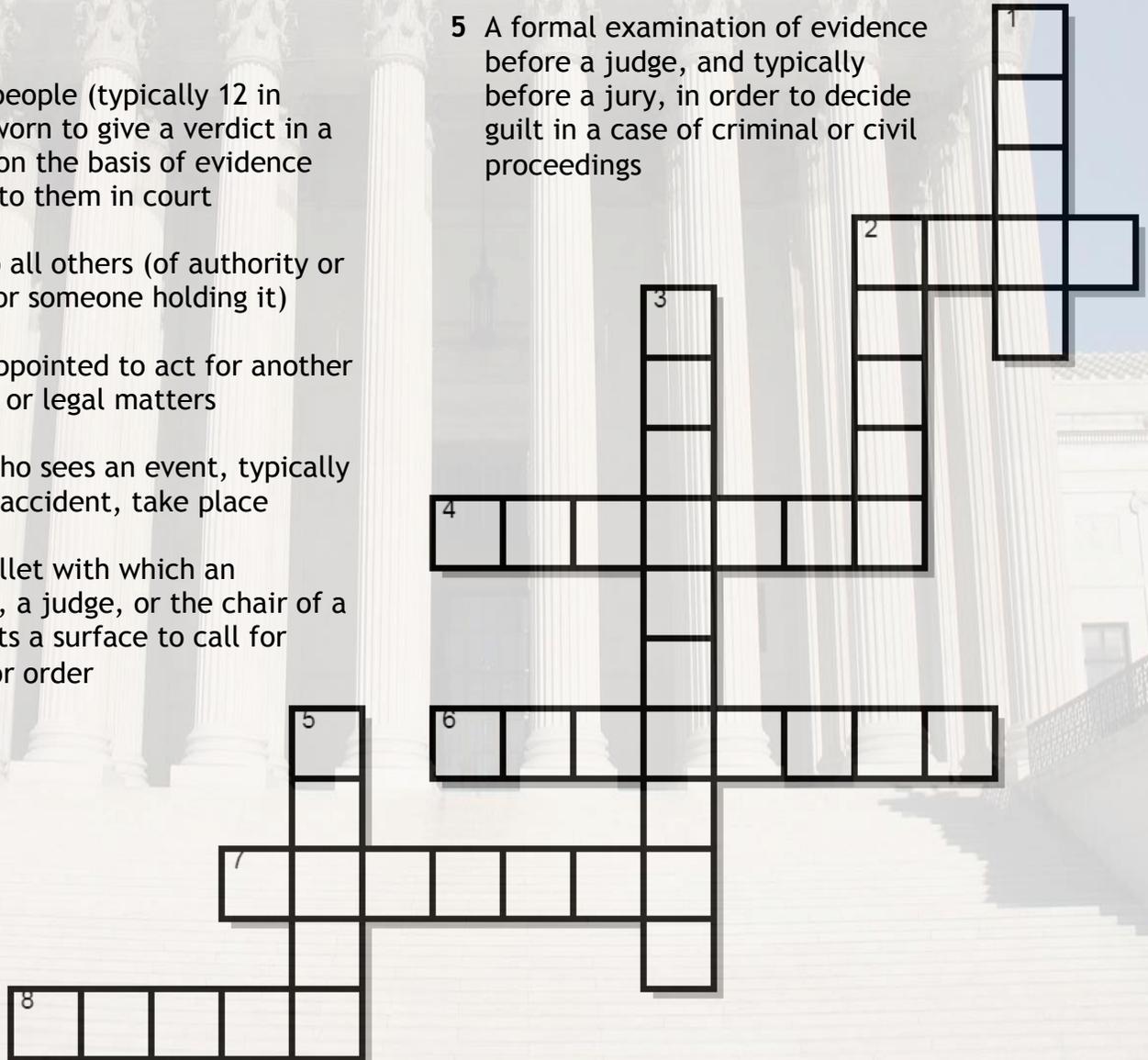


Down

- 1 A person employed in an office or bank to keep records and accounts and to undertake other routine administrative duties
- 2 A public official appointed to decide cases in a court of law
- 3 A building in which a judicial court is held
- 5 A formal examination of evidence before a judge, and typically before a jury, in order to decide guilt in a case of criminal or civil proceedings

Across

- 2 A body of people (typically 12 in number) sworn to give a verdict in a legal case on the basis of evidence submitted to them in court
- 4 Superior to all others (of authority or an office, or someone holding it)
- 6 A person appointed to act for another in business or legal matters
- 7 A person who sees an event, typically a crime or accident, take place
- 8 A small mallet with which an auctioneer, a judge, or the chair of a meeting hits a surface to call for attention or order



Have a story or photo you'd like to share?

We want them! This could be anything from a photo of you verifying a structure or an interesting story that you discovered while editing. Photos, graphics, and stories may be used in future news releases and social media posts. All materials submitted become part of the "public domain," and can be used by USGS in the future unless otherwise specified.

Please email them to nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov



New Recognition Category Members



Squadron of Biplane Spectators (6000-6999)

- geo163



Ring of Reconnaissance Rocketeers (5000-5999)



Family of Floating Photogrammetrists (3000-3999)

- Rick Ely
- TSDNAV



Flock of Winged Witnesses (4000-4999)



Theodolite Assemblage (2000-2999)

- Rick Ely



Alidade Alliance (1000-1999)

- Rlsailor



Stadia Board Society (500-999)

- EvilHag



Circle of the Surveyor's Compass (200-499)

- Mountains2Sea
- Britty01
- BruceLT
- Andrea Stewart



Pedometer Posse (100-199)

- BruceLT
- micah
- Mountains2Sea
- laurenlobue
- Charlie
- Britty01
- JustinCallahan



Society of the Steel Tape (50-99)

- Mountains2Sea
- Todd Lusk
- SpotsyGISDave20
- aloama
- Charlie
- Britty01
- JustinCallahan
- jhou
- Andrew Tscherne
- Kelly T
- jre323
- Angela P



Order of the Surveyor's Chain (25-49)

- aaronmakesmaps
- im-chels
- Digdug
- jre323
- Angela P
- Britty01
- Charlie
- jhou
- kristinc
- wla245
- John Goedeker
- Trevor Laureys
- JustinCallahan
- MReynolds99
- TMessmer
- TexasNavy78
- gacaver
- samoalowa92
- {kellythomps}
- Andrew Tscherne
- rjhale1971
- Cgibson
- brimcfarland

CONTACT US AT: nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov for suggestions, questions, additions to the next newsletter, or if you would like to be removed from the email list.

